

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 2, 3, 4 and 5, cancel claims 1 and 6-13 without prejudice, and add new claims 14-17 as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The thin film magnetic head according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, wherein said non-magnetic mass is made of a resin material.

3. (Currently Amended) The thin film magnetic head according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, wherein said non-magnetic mass is made of a non-magnetic metallic material.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The thin~~ A thin film magnetic head according to ~~claim 1~~, wherein comprising:

a lower magnetic pole layer extending rearward from a front end exposed at a medium-opposed surface, said lower magnetic pole layer is being made of a nitride;

a depression located on an upper surface of the lower magnetic pole layer;

a lower auxiliary magnetic pole defined in the lower magnetic pole layer between the medium-opposed surface and the depression;

a non-magnetic mass embedded in the depression; and

an upper magnetic pole opposing a front end to the lower auxiliary magnetic pole at the medium-opposed surface.

5. (Currently Amended) The A thin film magnetic head ~~according to claim 1,~~ wherein comprising:

a lower magnetic pole layer extending rearward from a front end exposed at a medium-opposed surface, said lower magnetic pole layer is being made of a composite material comprising a magnetic material and an oxide-oxide;

a depression located on an upper surface of the lower magnetic pole layer;

a lower auxiliary magnetic pole defined in the lower magnetic pole layer between the medium-opposed surface and the depression;

a non-magnetic mass embedded in the depression; and

an upper magnetic pole opposing a front end to the lower auxiliary magnetic pole at the medium-opposed surface.

6-13. (Canceled)

14. (New) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 5, wherein said non-magnetic mass is made of a resin material.

15. (New) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 5, wherein said non-magnetic mass is made of a non-magnetic metallic material.

16. (New) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 4, wherein the lower magnetic layer and the lower auxiliary magnetic pole are formed based on one of sputtering and vapor-deposition.

17. (New) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 5, wherein the lower magnetic layer and the lower auxiliary magnetic pole are formed based on one of sputtering and vapor-deposition.